



AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BULGARIA

Summary of Minutes of Meeting

Subject: AmCham Digital Working Group Meeting

Date: July 4th, 2017

Venue: American Corner Sofia, Sofia City Library

Participants:

Main points of discussion:

Name	Position	Company
Iva Pavlova	Committee Manager	American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria
Nadejda Vakareeva	Business Development and Event Manager	American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria
Nadia Lazarova	Policy and Legislative Advisor	American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria
Ognian Trayanov	BAIT Chairman, President of Technologica	Bulgarian Association of Information Technologies (BAIT)/ TechnoLogica EAD
Vessela Kalacheva	Chief Executive Officer of BAIT	Bulgarian Association of Information Technologies (BAIT)
Georgi Gunchev	Corporate Clients	Bulstrad Life Vienna Insurance Group
Plamen Zhechev	Enterprise and Public Sector Manager, Digital Working Group Co-chair	Cisco Systems Bulgaria
Milka Ivanova	Senior Associate	Djingov, Gouginski, Kyutchukov, & Velichkov
Lyuben Todev	Lawyer	Dobrev & Lyutskanov Law Firm
Tanya Stivasareva	Manager, Ernst & Young Law Partnership	Ernst & Young Bulgaria EOOD
Iva Todorova	Government and Regulatory Affairs Executive, Digital Working Group Co-chair	IBM Bulgaria
Albena Spasova	President of the Management Board	International Cyber Investigation Training Academy
Mitko Karushkov	TMT Partner	Kambourov & Partners Attorneys at Law
Mario Arabistanov	TMT Associate	Kambourov & Partners Attorneys at Law
Asya Vladimirova	Partner	Law Firm McGregor & Partners
Vladislav Vasilev	Business Development Management	Marsh LLC.
Radoslav Rizov	Manager Public Sector, AmCham Public Procurement & EU Funding Advisory Committee Co-chair	Microsoft Bulgaria
Vihren Slavchev	CEO	Mnemonica
Vasilena Goranova	Attorney-at-law	Penkov, Markov & Partners

Liliya Hadzhiyska	Attorney at Law	Penkov, Markov & Partners
Diana Georgieva	Marketing	Synchron-S OOD
Dimitar Kaldamukov	Senior Counsel	Tocheva & Mandazhieva Law Office
Dayana Slaveva	Associate	Tocheva & Mandazhieva Law Office
Christina Petkova	Associate	Tocheva & Mandazhieva Law Office
Zlatina Ruseva-Savova	Principal, AmCham Public Procurement & EU Funding Advisory Committee Co-chair	Zlatina Ruseva-Savova, LL.M., MBA

1. Task forces under the key priority areas of the Digital Working Group

Members are invited to continue signing up for the task forces under the key priority areas of the Digital Working Group to amcham@amcham.bg by July 21st, 2017. There is a shortage of volunteers for the Digital Education, Skills and Jobs task force.

After the registration process is completed AmCham will create a virtual space for each task force where members will be able to share and discuss relevant information. For the purpose, members will be further provided with instructions.

The AmCham HR, Education and CSR Committee has taken action to align Chamber's priorities in relation to human capital development, outlined in the [AmCham White Paper](#), with the Ministry of Education and Science and discuss how we can partner for the provision, preparation and retention of skilled work force. In addition, the HR, Education and CSR Committee has initiated a series of meetings with Advantage Austria, the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Deutsch-Bulgarische Industrie- und Handelskammer to discuss strategic partnership for improvement of the educational system and the implementation of dual education/vocational education and training in Bulgaria.

The next step is to organize a joint meeting of the HR, Education and CSR Committee, the Digital Working Group, representatives of BAIT, Bulgarian Association of Software Companies and the Bulgarian Outsourcing Association to synchronize the efforts for optimization of the educational system and its adaptation to the business needs.

2. AmCham General Data Protection Regulation Event, September, 2017.

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was approved and adopted by the EU Parliament in April 2016. The regulation will be in force May, 2018. Currently, the Commission for Personal Data Protection (CPDP) is drafting guidelines for preparation and implementation of the regulation, as well a new Personal Data Protection Act. To help organizations prepare for the regulation, there is a need to raise awareness on the topic; and to facilitate the implementation process, there is a need for training and provision of field specialists. Local Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) will be responsible for exercising control and enforcing penalties for non-compliance with GDPR. Organizations can be fined up to 4% of annual global turnover for breaching GDPR.

GDPR is cross-sectoral and will affect all businesses. Many organizations, including the CPDP, are planning to organize/have organized educational seminars/trainings/forums on GDPR in partnership with NGOs and business associations. AmCham is planning a similar event for mid-September, 2017, as the concept, goals, format and participants will be determined based on the feedback from the Digital Working Group membership.

Members made the following comments/suggestions:

- Tocheva & Mandazhieva Law Office are interested in participating in the AmCham GDPR event and suggest organizing a series of sessions covering different aspects of the regulation.
- Proposal to organize a more general round table discussion with the aim of raising awareness of GDPR and invite representatives of the relevant authorities, including CPDP, to discuss the different perspectives on the implementation of GDPR and its implications for the business.
- Proposal to invite experts from other EU countries to present the international experience with GDPR implementation and best practices.
- Proposal to invite technological companies to present solutions for the identified problems in relation to the implementation and implications of GDPR.
- Dimitrov, Petrov & Co. express interest in the GDPR event.
- It is important to note that GDPR is a regulation and must be applied in its entirety across the EU. However, apart from the direct implementation, there are some rules that are left for interpretation to the national legislatures.
- It is important to note that the GDPR rules and penalties for non-compliance apply to both data controllers and processors.
- The UK government has started educating UK businesses on how to become compliant with GDPR and meet the legislative requirements.
- The International Cyber Investigation Training Academy has organized a joint event with CPDP and the Association of Banks in Bulgaria to discuss the implications of GDPR for the banking sector in Bulgaria. The academy is ready to provide support for the organization of the AmCham GDPR event. On October 30-31, 2017, the academy is organizing a regional event on cyber security as one of the topics will be GDPR. Albena Spasova will provide more information about the event.
- Suggestion to prepare a brief on the AmCham GDPR event outlining the main points of discussion, to be presented to CPDP along with the invitation, with the aim to facilitate the dialogue with the institution.
- The business needs to monitor the legislative process and safeguard the ‘freedoms’ in the implementation of GDPR.
- Suggestion for AmCham law companies to research and summarize the rules of GDPR which allow for interpretation by the national legislatures and inquire what will be the approach of CPDP to these rules.

- AmCham should be involved in all processes related to GDPR at an early stage and become a partner of CPDP in the implementation of the regulation by May, 2018.

The next steps will be to set a provisional date for the AmCham GDPR kick-off event in September, 2017, and collect feedback from the AmCham law firms and consultancies about the experience of their clients in relation to GDPR, as well as suggestions for topics/challenges to be discussed during the event. **Members are invited to send input and suggestions to nlazarova@amcham.bg by July 21st, 2017.**

3. Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018: discussion about AmCham involvement in this area regarding the activities of the Digital Working Group.

AmCham believes that the digitalization of the economy and the completion of the Digital Single Market are crucial both for the business and society and should be amongst the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018. The Chamber is planning a high-profile event on the occasion at the beginning of October, 2017, with representatives of AmCham EU.

In view of the above, members are invited to send suggestions regarding the involvement of AmCham in the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018 and how the Digital Working Group can contribute in this area to nlazarova@amcham.bg by July 21st, 2017.